

Rotary Model United Nations Program



Dear Parents of Student Delegates,

Congratulations on your child being selected as a student delegate at a unique Model United Nations Program sponsored by Rotary District 5340! You should feel very proud that your son or daughter will be able to participate in this wonderful and enriching program.

As a student delegate, your child will become exposed to and engaged in major world issues, while meeting and working alongside their peers from different socio-economic groups, cultures and backgrounds. This experience is very similar to the situations encountered by actual delegates to the United Nations. Students will strengthen their leadership qualities while applying their studies in such areas as history, geography, and science to practical real world situations. Most importantly, they will learn how to peacefully resolve conflicts and reach consensus on various issues – critical tools to becoming peace builders or community leaders.

Last year we addressed an unique proposal to add Palestine as a new member country into the UN and the continuing Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and we also debated the alarming issues with the microplastic pollution in our global oceans and considered terms for a new international treaty to protect our oceans. We are still researching the topics for this year's Model UN Conference. Our MUN resolutions usually parallel issues that are currently being addressed by the real United Nations in its 74th General Assembly Session.

Students participating in our Model UN program will learn about the dynamics of international politics. They will also become familiar with the cultures and policies of the respective countries they represent. Your child will also learn the details of important global issues, the policies of many countries toward these issues, the activities of the United Nations and develop a better understanding of world affairs.

Your child will have to “become” a true ambassador of a foreign country and forget their US-centric values and beliefs and present and argue the various UN resolutions solely from the perspective of their country. This experience will require them to re-examine prejudices, beliefs and stereotypes about other cultures. They will have to accomplish this by having to uphold the foreign policies of their country, even when those policies are in conflict with their own feelings.

During the preparation process, students will develop personal and technical skills and will gain experience in researching the political and economic issues currently facing their respective countries. To persuade other countries to adopt their perspective on the various resolutions, your child will have to use their persuasive writing and speaking skills. Their Rotary and/or high school faculty advisors will help your child learn how to improve these skills. They will also learn how to more effectively listen to the needs of other countries and diplomatically negotiate compromises - abilities that will assist them in whatever career they ultimately pursue.

This year our conference will be held at the Joan Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice, University of San Diego, beginning on Saturday, March 28, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. The program will conclude on Sunday, March 29, 2020 around 2:00 p.m. The students will also receive full meals along with an overnight stay at the Crowne Plaza San Diego Hotel in Mission Valley. They will be safely transferred by bus between the 2 locations. Your child will share a room at the hotel most likely with their teammate or with another student of the same gender. They will be well supervised throughout the weekend, including by advisors who monitor the hallways at night until 1:00am during their hotel stay. Rotary District 5340 has adopted a Youth Protection Policy for participating adults which will further ensure the safety and protection of your child during this program. All Rotary advisors and other Rotarians supervising your child, including myself, have undergone training in this policy and will have undergone a background check.

However, we will still need your help as Parents and Guardians of participating students, to emphasize the need to adhere to our rules and safety regulations to ensure the safety of your child. We will not tolerate any student who violates our safety rules. They will be immediately expelled from the conference and you will be called to pick them up immediately.

The advisors should be sending you or your child a Permission Slip and Medical and Photography/Video Release Forms to complete and sign. Please promptly fill in the required information and return it to your child's advisor.

We also welcome you to attend our weekend events during the General Assemblies and evening banquet program. Due to the limited size capacity of our conference, guests will be welcomed on a first come, first served basis, and a small fee will be charged if you attend either the Saturday lunch or Saturday dinner. With respect to the costs for your child, the Rotary Club who has sponsored your child has funded all costs associated with your child's participation in the program, including the hotel stay. If you would like to attend any part of the event on March 28-29, 2020, please call your child's advisor.

This will be a very instructive and rewarding event for all of us. We look forward to being part of the amazing growth your child will experience during this fantastic program.

Sincerely,

Pauline Lim-Endresen
Chair
Rotary District 5340 Model United Nations Program
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